

REMARKS

Responsive to the restriction requirement mailed on June 6, 2003, the applicant wishes to amend the claims in the manner indicated above, where claims 6-14 and 23 (Group 2) are amended and claims 15-22 (Group 3) are cancelled. Claim 24 is new and part of Group 2. No new subject matter is added. Thus, Group 3 is not elected [MPEP 818.02(c)]. The applicant provisionally elects claims 1-5 (Group 1) for prosecution in this application [MPEP 818.03(b)].

Traverse

The applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement under 37 CFR 1.143 on the grounds that the species are not patentably distinct.

Claims must be mutually exclusive to be restricted to different species, that is, the claims must recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species [MPEP 806.04(f)]. In the restriction requirement, the Examiner has emphasized the “feedback circuit” of Group 1 (claims 1-5) and the “loop gain control signal generating means” of Group 2 (claims 6-14, 23).

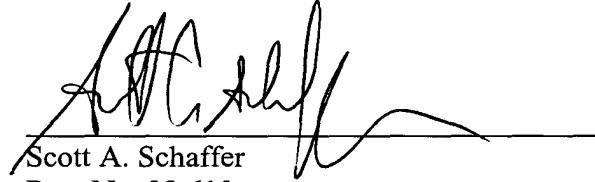
Claim 6 is amended to recite, rather than a “loop gain control signal generating means”, a “feedback circuit configured to adjust a gain of the first current sense amplifiers depending on a relative delay of data stored in different ones of the memory cells that are to be read by the first current sense amplifiers.” This limitation is substantially the same as that for the feedback circuit recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 6 (Group 2) does not recite characteristics that are mutually exclusive of claim 1 (Group 1). Consequently, Groups 1 and 2 are not patentably distinct.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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